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the true and inner meaning of such terrible rites? We rescue from a foot-note (pp. 18, 19), the following suggestion:

"This practice [sacrificing and devouring human beings] is traced by some historians to the tribe of the Mexi, which descended from Tenoch . . . Prisoners taken in war were the most highly prized victims, but, failing these, or for the celebration of minor festivals, slaves were easily bought, or were offered by their owners for this purpose. Small infants were also commonly sold by their mothers, and instances of free-born men offering themselves as victims were not unknown. The victims were frequently drugged, in such wise that they went unconsciously, or even willingly, to the altar. If a great festival, requiring many and choice victims, fell in a time of peace, war would be undertaken upon any frivolous pretext in order to procure the desired offerings. The warrior who had captured the victim in battle would not eat of the latter's flesh, as a sort of spiritual relationship was held to exist between them, not dissimilar to that of a sponsor and his god-child in Christian baptism—or even closer, for the flesh of the victim was considered also as the very flesh of the captor. The eating of this human body was not an act of gluttonous cannibalism alone, but was believed to have mystic significance, the flesh having undergone some mysterious transmutation, by virtue of the sacrificial rite, and to be really consecrated; it was spoken of also as the 'true body' of the deity to whom it was offered, and also as the 'food of soul.' None but chiefs and distinguished persons, specially designated, was permitted to partake of the sacramental feast, which was celebrated with much ceremony and gravity. If the victim was a slave, the rites were similar, but simpler." M. W.

Motoring in the Balkans. Along the Highways of Dalmatia, Montenegro, the Herzegovina and Bosnia. By Frances Kingsley Hutchinson. 341 pp., map, over 100 illustrations from photographs by the author, and index. 8vo. A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1909. \$2.75.

The automobile being an innovation along most of the 1,483 miles traversed by Mrs. Hutchinson and her party, it made a decided sensation among the live stock on the way. The author, with characteristic Chicago enterprise, secured a photograph of a horse that had just dragged his vehicle over a stone wall in his frantic desire to give the strange machine the whole road. In the capital of Montenegro, the author was told that its ruler, Prince Nicola I, father of the Queen of Italy, was attending service in a certain church. "Will he let me take his photograph when he comes out?" she asked. The soldier merely shrugged his shoulders. But the Prince and his two daughters were duly snap-shotted as they were walking home, and the picture is the frontispiece of the book.

Mrs. Hutchinson is a vivacious writer, with a keen eye for the novel and the picturesque. The lands and peoples of the western Balkans are among the few new things left for the globe-trotter and the author writes about them, not only in an entertaining manner but also with the evident purpose of showing how much pleasure and profit may be derived from a visit to this little known part of Europe.

Aztecs and Mayas. By Thomas J. Diven. Two Vols. Vol. I. pp. 248. 12mo. The Antiquarian Company, Chicago, 1909. \$1.

While this volume is written in a somewhat heterogeneous and fantastic manner the author is serious and his conclusions in the main accord with those